

Touchy Subjects: Relationships Rules

Darcy Siggelkow

Question: Did you have a pre-school marriage proposal?

Read 1 Corinthians 7:1

Platonian dualism was very influential at the time: the higher realm of the mind and soul is what's important and eternal; the lower realm of the body is temporary unimportant.

- some would say your body is unimportant and what you do with it is meaningless
- some would say your body is a distraction, so treat it harshly

Read Romans 12:2; 1 Corinthians 7:2

St. Augustine thought that sexuality was a result of sin and the fall and should be avoided if at all possible. But God made us sexual creatures and because God made us that way, sex is good.

Sex is more than just physical. It's emotional and spiritual. It is something that goes far beyond our bodies.

Read Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5; I Corinthians 6:16



Sexual encounters always have spiritual (and emotional) consequences that touch us more deeply than we realize. Our physical intimacy involves spiritual intimacy, which can only be healthy in the context of covenant and commitment.

David Timms

Within Christian marriage [sex] is the most intimate celebration of life together in Christ.

Gordon Fee

Read 1 Corinthians 7:2-4

A biblical understanding of sex:

- Sex is good because God made us sexual creatures.
- Sex more than just physical, but deeply emotional and spiritual.
- Sex is about mutuality and equality.

Question: This was profound in the Corinthian world. Which one of these points is most profound to you?

Read 1 Corinthians 7:7-8

Marriage is just one way to live and follow Jesus. Singleness is just as valuable.

The assumption of our culture says: If you're single (and celibate) you're missing out on what it means to be truly human.

The assumption of church culture says: Marriage and family are the normal and preferred vision for the Christian life.

Singleness is a holistic vision for the Christian life and human flourishing.

Paul's Relationship Rules:

- Sex is for marriage and marriage is for sex.
- Singleness is good and has advantages.
- Divorce is never God's best, but there are circumstances that may end a marriage.
- If you married someone before you became a follower of Jesus, your marriage still counts.
- If you're engaged, think carefully before you get married.
- If you are going to get married, marry someone who shares your faith and worldview.

Questions: Which one of these "rules" is most profound to you? Why?

The bottom line: Read 1 Corinthians 7:35 (NLT)

I am saying this for your benefit, not to place restrictions on you. I want you to do whatever will help you serve the Lord best, with as few distractions as possible.

Questions: What is the priority of your life? (Answer: Serving the Lord!) What does this look like in your life?